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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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NEW UN PROPOSAL WILL ASK FOR RELEASE OF NONREPATRIATED POW'S

The UN Command will propose, in the Korean truce talks:

- (1) that the five-nation neutral commission suggested by the Communists take custody of prisoners unwilling to be repatriated on some "convenient island location," operate by unanimous vote, and employ only Indian armed forces;
- (2) that the commission take charge of the prisoners within 60 days of the armistice and retain them for an additional 60 days for Communist "explanations" to them; and
- (3) that the prisoners not repatriated after the "explanations" be released from custody and assume civilian status.

Comment: The Communists have expressed a preference that the commission operate by majority vote, but might accept unanimity.

The Communists have sought four months for "explanations," after first seeking six. Since the proposed takeover period and period for explanations could extend to a maximum of four months, the Communists may compromise by suggesting a shorter takeover period and a longer period for "explanations."

The critical point has always been the disposition of prisoners who remain unwilling to return after "explanations." There is no evidence that the Communists are currently prepared to compromise on this point. Should the UN threaten to recess the talks, the Communists might possibly make a counter-proposal that the disposition of the unwilling POW's be decided by a unanimous or majority vote of the neutral commission.

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